

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR FUNDAMENTAL
AMERICAN FREEDOMS
Suite 520, 301 First Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

A loose-knit, small group of prominent citizens seeking to defeat the proposed civil rights legislation by distributing printed material in key states and pressuring Congress from headquarters in the Carroll Arms Hotel, across from the Senate Office Building. It was incorporated in Delaware, Sept. 25, 1963.

Origin

Beginning August 1, 1963, Washington newspapers started reporting the arrival of an organized move against President Kennedy's civil rights program, then pending before Congress. On that date, the Washington Daily News named John J. Synon as operator of a Co-ordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms, and quoted him as saying: "We are being supported primarily by the various sovereignty commissions of the Southern states." The objective was stated by Synon to be "to defeat the Civil rights act of 1963 or as I choose to call it, the force bill."

Two days later, the Washington Post reported that "a leading segregationist lawyer is quietly seeking to enlist powerful Washington lobbyists in a Southern campaign to defeat President Kennedy's civil rights program." The lawyer was identified as John Satterfield of Yazoo City, Mississippi, and his technique was identified as inviting the lobbyists to an "off-the-record" breakfast meeting in the Statler Hilton Hotel. The invitations were sent to registered Washington lobbyists from Satterfield's law office in Jackson, Miss., in a letter declaring that the bill, if enacted, "will have a greater adverse effect on business and industry than any legislation ever offered in the history of our Nation," (Washington Post 8/3/63)

The technique was quite complete. Lobbyists who did not attend the breakfast were sent a follow-up letter signed by Satterfield, using the new Washington address, enclosing brochures and inviting inquiries for more information about "the other side."

More knowledgeable reports of the new drive had appeared a little earlier in the South. For instance, an article in the July 25 Summit Sun, a far-right newspaper published by Mary D. Cain in Summit, Miss., reported Governor Ross Barnett as saying that the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, of which he was ex-officio Chairman, was cooperating "to the fullest" in a nationwide program opposing President Kennedy's civil rights proposals. John Satterfield was identified as attorney for the commission and quoted as saying that numerous states were cooperating from a Washington office as "the greatest unified project ever undertaken in the South."

Gov. Barnett, who earlier had resisted Federal desegregation of Mississippi University, was represented as saying that Satterfield's plans were approved by the Commission, which the Sun described as "the state's official segregation watchdog." (Financial support from the Commission is documented below.) Gov. Barnett was also reported as saying that Earle Johnston, Jr., Mississippi Attorney General, and Satterfield had traveled twice to Washington to arrange meetings.

Note: The Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, and corresponding agencies in several other states, have supported the work of White Citizen's Councils, action groups formed after the 1954 Supreme Court decision ordering desegregation of public schools. Until recently, the Mississippi legislature even appropriated money for the Citizen's Council of its State.

Officers

Beginning in August of 1963, the organization has listed the following as its only officers:

John C. Satterfield, Secretary-Treasurer, Advisor to Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett and one of the attorneys appearing on behalf of the State of Mississippi in the suit charging Barnett with criminal contempt of Federal court orders against interfering with desegregation of the University of Mississippi, (Washington Post, 11/25/62 and N. Y. Times, 5/29/63) President 1961-62, American Bar Association. In his address as retiring President, Satterfield attacked the post-1937 U. S. Supreme Court (Washington Post 8/3/63), and he was active at the 1963 meeting in opposition to the Kennedy civil rights program (N. Y. Times 8/12/63). Former president, Circuit Riders, Inc., (8/1/52 letterhead), an organization opposing the propagation of "Socialism and Communism and all other anti-American teachings in The Methodist Church." (Sec 1-ORG)

John J. Synon, Director. Formerly Vice President of Savage and Lee, the public relations firm which has represented the government of Portugal; assistant director of Americans for Constitutional Action; California Industrial Accident Commissioner; public member of the California Board of Control; and executive secretary to former Governor Goodwin J. Knight. A former congressional candidate, he has written for both Christian Economics and Human Events, and recently authored the tract "Why Rockefeller Can't Win" which is being distributed by the Patrick Henry Group, Richmond. (Program, Human Events 4th Political Action conference; Americans for Constitutional Action "Report to Stockholders," Washington Daily News, 8/1/63; and undated brochure from Patrick Henry Group). A John Synon of Virginia was listed as speaking at a June, 1963, banquet sponsored by the Committee to Help Elect the Next President of the United States, a group promoting independent electors. (Jackson, Miss., Daily News 6/2/63)

William Koch, Chairman, Publisher of the Manchester, N. H. Union-Leader and several other newspapers, 1963 National Committee, Citizens Foreign Aid Committee (11/25/63 letterhead); National Policy Committee, For America (Sept. 1957 brochure); National Advisory Board, Young Americans for Freedom (2/63 letterhead); Sponsor, American Committee for Aid to Katanga Freedom Fighters (1/11/63 letterhead); Member, American Afro-Asian Educational Exchange, Inc. (6/12/63 letterhead); Board of Directors, Citizens' Foreign Relations Committee (2/11/57 letterhead); Committee of One Million Against the Admission of Communist China to the United Nations (7/27/63 letterhead); and Member, Committee on Electoral College Reform of the American

Good Government Society (3/9/63 letterhead). Loeb has also served as a director and was President from 1941-1943 of the American China Policy Association (Who's Who, 1962-63), which was one of the organizational bulwarks of the so-called China lobby.

James Jackson Kilpatrick, Vice-Chairman, Editor, Richmond News Leader, and credited by Time magazine (10/26/63) with running an editorial campaign "that, in large measure, polarized Southern resistance to school integration." Vice-Chairman of the Virginia Commission on Constitutional Government and Chairman of its Committee on Publications (9/63 letterhead; this is an official agency of the state). Author, Our Sovereign States and The Southern Case for School Segregation. Editorial Advisor, Modern Age, (masthead, Spring, 1962) and contributor to National Review (masthead, 11/19/63). Among his views: "The Negro is fundamentally and perhaps unalterably inferior; he is also immoral, indolent, inept, incapable of learning, and uninterested in full racial equality. The segregationist South feels no guilt about keeping the Negro in his proper place--that is to say, in separate schools" (Time, op. cit.)

Note: Both Loeb and Kilpatrick testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce in opposition to the public accommodations features of pending civil rights legislation a few days before their new co-ordinating committee was made public -- and without referring to it. Also, Satterfield filed a statement in opposition, representing himself. (Part I of Hearings on S. 1732, July-August 1963, indexed)

Operations

Pamphlets: The first pamphlet published by the Committee is called "S-1731: The Federal Eye Looking Down Your Throat" and argues that the alleged controls in proposed legislation will affect nearly everyone in the country. This was later printed in color, with a cover showing two sinister eyes glaring at the reader from under an "Uncle Sam" hat. The most recent version depicts a heavy chain running down each slender page.

"Blueprint for Total Federal Regimentation" is another pamphlet widely distributed with the group's imprint on the back. Subtitled "Analysis of Civil Rights Act 1963," it is written by Loyd Wright and John C. Satterfield, both of whom are identified with respective legal firms and as members of the American Bar Association. Wright was ABA President six years before Satterfield and ran unsuccessfully against Senator Thomas Kuchel in the 1962 California Republican primary as a conservative. Wright is also head of the National Strategy Committee of the American Security Council (Sec. 4, Special Report #1), a Trustee of Americans for Constitutional Action (Sec. 4, Special Report #9), and a board member of the Americanism Educational League (letterhead 7/62).

The Wright-Satterfield pamphlet begins with this note: "Although many of the major features of 'The Civil Rights Act of 1963' are unconstitutional on their face, this review is limited to a discussion thereof as if the proposals were constitutional and became law." Distribution of the pamphlet, with a covering letter personally addressed, has included members of Congress, labor leaders and other opinion molders. An article by

Satterfield and Wright covering much the same arguments was published by Human Events (10/12/63) with pictures of both men and a box urging readers to write to Congress opposing the bills.

Similarly, James J. Kilpatrick has mailed many copies of a 24-page pamphlet, "Civil Rights and Legal Wrongs," published by the Virginia Commission on Constitutional Government, in opposition to the legislation. Kilpatrick signs a covering letter as Chairman of the Commission's Committee on Publications and uses Commonwealth of Virginia letterheads. An accompanying brochure explains that "The Commission's work is financed through a State appropriation of \$125,000 a year." A Kilpatrick letter dated September, 1963, and received in Wyoming includes this explanation:

You got on this mailing list because we went to a fellow in Washington who is in the mailing list business, and from him we got the names of all the lawyers, doctors, dentists, optometrists, hospital administrators, state and local officials, and school superintendents in Wyoming. We would have bought a list of the school teachers too, but it cost too much money. All we want is to talk with you a few minutes about the pending civil rights bill.

The same pamphlet has been offered as a bonus by Liberty Lobby, a far-right Washington operation, and appeared in article form over Kilpatrick's name in National Review magazine (9/24/63).

Advertisements: In late November, display ads began appearing under the banner of "Civil Rights & Legal Wrongs" in weekly newspapers around Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. Measuring nearly a foot wide and as tall as a newspaper page, the ads appealed to employers, employees, professional and businessmen, school personnel, unions and "everyone" to write Congress in opposition to the civil rights bill. The ads were sponsored by the Coordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms and signed by Loeb and Synon.

A different format and a different message appeared as an ad in the Summit, Miss., Sun (9/26/63) with a local angle: "Contact The County Farm Bureau Office For Information And Make A Donation, Large Or Small, To The Committee."

Articles: In mid-November, articles by John C. Satterfield started appearing in country newspapers linking the proposed civil rights bill with Federal control of agriculture. For example, the St. Joseph County Observer (11/13/63), published at Centerville, Michigan, carried an article headlined "From Crop Control To People Control." Satterfield was identified only as "Past Pres. American Bar Assn." Another paper, the Lawton (Mich.) Leader of Nov. 14 identified Satterfield with Fundamental American Freedoms in carrying the same article.

Income

The organization filed its first report with the Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives, as lobbying groups are required to do, in a letter dated October 9 and covering the 3rd quarter of 1963.

On the income side, the report disclosed that \$20,000 out

of a total of \$22,000 spent through Sept. 30 was received from the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission. Incidentally, Satterfield's personal filing as a lobbyist listed both the Commission and the Co-ordinating Committee as employer, although it did not say which paid how much of the \$6,000 he received for services, plus \$1,500 for expenses.

The other receipts came from Bruce Dunston, identified by the New York Times (11/4/63) as "a Richmond real estate owner and philanthropist," and Landon Lane, of Alta Vista, Va., identified by the Times as "vice president of the Lane Company, which makes cedar chests." Each contributed \$1,000.

On the expenditure side, Synon was paid at the rate of \$519.23 per week, plus travel, food and lodging and the usual printing, postage, secretarial and other office expenses were listed. In addition, the following items were of significance in the total expenditure of \$23,413.71 during the quarter:

\$114.64 to Mrs. Ray L. Erb, Washington, D. C., "travel-committee meetings." Mrs. Erb is a former National Defense Chairman of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Martha Strayer: The DAR: Washington, Public Affairs Press, p. 259); on the Advisory Board of Billy James Hargis's Christian Crusade (brochure, 1961); and is Editor of Report to America, organ of The American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, a far-right Washington group.

\$45.00 to V. C. Mathews, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. -- "Clerical help -- Mailing circulars." The Senate telephone directory lists a Vivian C. Mathews as an employee of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

\$525.00 to U. S. Press Association, McLean, Va. -- "Printing and mailing circular." This enterprise recently figured in hearings conducted by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee into the use of news media in this country by agents of foreign countries. It specializes in sending prepared editorials to lists of newspaper editors for paying clients. (See Part 6 of Hearings, June 14, 1963)

\$1,453.77 to Patricia G. Lutz, Washington, D. C. -- "Salary - Secretary at \$161.53 per week." Mrs. Lutz has been associated many years with Human Events, having been shown as Business Manager of that publication in its Oct. 1, 1958, postal statement, for example.

\$300.00 to Liberty Lobby, Washington, D. C. -- mailing pamphlet. This is a small but active, far-right group started in 1955. It keeps up a running flow of pamphlets and testimony on many issues, and its officers include extremists such as John Birch Society leaders. (See Sec. 1 - ORG)

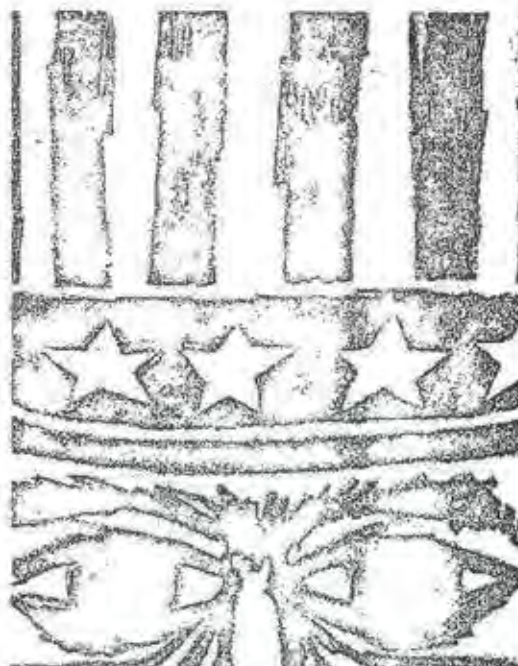
\$250.00 to William Schulz, c/o Fulton Lewis, Jr., for "Research Service for Pamphlets." Schulz is an assistant to radio commentator Lewis (New York Times 11/4/63); is a Director of Young Americans for Freedom (11/62 New Guard); and has written for Human Events (e.g. 10/13/61 masthead).

\$300.00 to Horace Clay, Suite 312 Carroll Arms Hotel -- "Research service for pamphlets." Clay was a

legislative assistant to Senator John Tower (R-Texas) until Sept. 30 (N. Y. Times 11/4/63)

\$2,200 to Herbert Liebenson, of Silver Spring, Md. -- "Research service for pamphlets." This is apparently the man who is listed as Research Director of the National Small Business Association, in that organization's magazine, Small Business Bulletin, Legislative Edition 1962.

In addition, the New York Times (11/4/63) stated that "the Committee also hired a Washington lawyer, George Stephen Leonard, at a reported fee of \$750 a month."



THE FEDERAL EYES LOOKING DOWN YOUR THROAT!

S-1731 ***** HR7152

THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR
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SUITE 620 • 801 FIRST STREET, N.E. • WASHINGTON, D. C.

(Group Research, Inc.)